

To the PAYERS to the EXETER POOR RATES.

AS many Persons profess themselves to be utterly unacquainted with the Merits of the Dispute now subsisting between the Corporation for the Poor and the Constitutional Society, further than they have been informed by the Members of the latter, it is thought proper to republish the following Extracts from Mr. TREWMAN's Newspapers, by which the Sentiments of the Beginner of the present Opposition to the Corporation, at the Time when they were written, will manifestly appear.

Taken from a Paper sent to the *Exeter Flying Post*, and dated May 29, 1778.

"To the Citizens of Exeter.

"The Incorporation have given Proofs of their good Administration; they are desirous of publishing all their Transactions, they voluntarily published some Years before the Act of Parliament obliged them. Their Cashier or Treasurer is to be committed to Prison, for refusing or wilfully neglecting to give a just Account at a certain Day—there to remain in Prison without Bail or Mainprize, until he shall become conformable, account, print, and publish his said Accounts. Few Institutions have such Regulations and Restrictions. Their Form of Government resembles that of our happy British Constitution—King, Lords and Commons.

Esteem The Mayor as the political Monarch.

The Eight Justices as the Upper House.

The 40 Inhabitants elected, for the Commons.

POPE says,—"Whatever is best administered is best."

MEM. The above was reprinted June the 5th on the same Paper, with the following.

Taken from a Paper published June 5, 1778, and directed for the *Exeter Flying-Post*.

"There was transmitted to you, Gentlemen, the Citizens of Exeter, a Letter by Mr. Trewman's Flying-Post, dated May 29th.

—Therein was demonstrated, in whom the Powers of the Act* may with great, if not with the greatest, Propriety be vested, (provided the Incorporation for the Care of the Poor will please to accept the same.)

—To speak to the Questions repeated, but unknown to me for what End asked, Who is he? Where doth he live? &c. you shall have subscribed in this, in order to trace the Name, if you please, as you had, in the last Week's Paper, to ascertain the Quality.

Yours, &c.

Exoniensis Civis—jamque e Coll. Oriel.†

Who the Writer of the above was, needs not be mentioned, as the Signature so remarkably points him out, and was avowedly subscribed for that Purpose. Now should he alledge, that he was not at that Time fully informed of the Proceedings of the Corporation, he ought to have known them, having been a Guardian of the Poor more than seven Years, and was highly blameable for publishing them without a thorough Conviction of the Truth of his Assertions.

If he acknowledge, that he was then convinced of the Excellency of the Institution, and of the good Conduct of the Corporation, to which in the above Extracts he bears such honourable Testimony, what have they been guilty of since, to have caused such an Alteration of his Opinion, as to induce him to represent the Institution as defective, and the Members of it as remiss in their Duty, and unfaithful to their Trust? Alas! that Forty Men, chosen out of the whole Body of Citizens, and by the most respectable Part of them, who in the Year 1778, from their past Conduct in the Execution of a former Trust, were thought worthy of another, in Preference to all the rest of the Inhabitants, should, in the Year 1783, be so far degenerated, as to deserve to be deprived even of that Office which they possessed in 1778, and for the due Discharge of which they had received such public Attestation.

December

* An Act was intended to have been applied for, to enable the Inhabitants of Exeter to pave their Streets, and make Common Sewers, in order to render the City more healthy.

† In English—A Citizen of Exeter and now of Oriel College.

December 11th, 1781, a Hand Bill was published intitled "A Summary of Accompts from the Corporation of the Poor of the City of Exon since the Year 1774," drawn up by Mr. William Holmes, who he received their public Thanks; and in which, among other Articles, a following :

By Neat Produce from the House-Keeper.

April 1775	—	—	—	£. 336	2	6
76	—	—	—	323	1	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
77	—	—	—	434	15	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
78	—	—	—	472	19	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
79	—	—	—	270	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
80	—	—	—	300	7	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
81	—	—	—	428	10	5
Neat in the seven Years				£. 2566	4	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

N B. The Woollen Manufactory began June, 1774.

The seven Years immediately preceding the above				1069	8	6
seven by the House-Keeper				1456	16	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deficient				2566	4	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

The other seven Years immediately preceding these				418	9	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
just noted				2147	15	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deficient of Mr. Brutton's				£. 2566	4	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

This Mr. Brutton, Gentlemen, then so highly extolled for his Industry and great Attention to the Affairs of the Poor, is the Person who hath lately been held up to the World, as having unduly enriched himself at the public Expence. This is the Man, whose Character hath been so undeservedly vilified, without a single specific Charge of his Injustice or Misbehaviour having been adduced. To what Causes can the Outcry, raised against him, be ascribed?—To Envy at his Prosperity, and a Determination, at all Events, to render the Corporation as odious as possible to their Fellow-Citizens, in Order to strengthen the Opposition, set up against the Members of it. Had Mr. Brutton squandered away his Substance, instead of making a prudent Provision for his Family, and had not the Abettors of the Opposition wanted Matter of Complaint against the Corporation, Mr. Brutton would have remained unimpeached, and the Members of that Body would never have been blamed on his Account. But, relying on the Justice of their Cause, and the Sincerity of their Intentions, we trust, that the Support, which they have already received, and will further receive, from so many of the most respectable Inhabitants of this City, in Behalf of their Petition to Parliament, will, in the End, procure Success to their honest Endeavours for the Benefit of the Public, and enable them to triumph over all Opposition.

Many Lovers of Truth and Friends to the Poor.

Exeter, December 18, 1784.



